UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/50/680
25 October 1995
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 29

COMMEMORATION OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Letter dated 21 October 1995 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text of the declaration of 18 October 1995 of the State Duma of the Russian Federation on the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 29.

(Signed) S. LAVROV

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ANNEX

Statement of 18 October 1995 by the State Duma of the Russian Federation on the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations

The State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, bearing in mind

That 24 October 1995 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, the establishment of which was one of the most important results of the victory of the States of the anti-Hitlerite coalition in the Second World War,

That over the half century of its activity, the United Nations has made a significant contribution to the strengthening of peace and international security, to sparing mankind from the threat of a new world war, to curbing the arms race and to preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction,

That the fifty-year history of the United Nations has confirmed the importance of the Charter of the United Nations as the fundamental document of the international community, embodying the principles of contemporary international law and relations among States,

That the United Nations has played a historic role in combating colonialism and racism, in developing and codifying international law, in affirming human rights and freedoms as the highest value of contemporary civilization and in disseminating the ideas of peace, democracy and justice,

That the United Nations and its specialized agencies are working constructively to solve acute socio-economic problems, eliminate poverty and inequality, provide humanitarian assistance and develop science, education and culture,

That the United Nations continues to be the most representative international forum, whose significance in settling regional, inter-ethnic and territorial conflicts is growing ever greater,

That the Russian Federation and the other States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States are participating actively in all spheres of activity of the United Nations,

Congratulates all States Members of the United Nations on the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, and confirms the readiness of the Russian Federation, as the successor State to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which was one of the founders of the United Nations, and as a permanent member of the Security Council, to make every effort in the United Nations for the purpose of bringing about the economic, social, environmental and moral progress of mankind;

Recognizes that further strengthening of the authority of the United Nations will depend on its ability to function as the leading international

organization in strict conformity with the purposes and principles proclaimed in its Charter;

Declares its readiness to facilitate the active participation of the Russian Federation in the joint task of finding optimum ways of improving the activity of the United Nations and enhancing its effectiveness and further democratization;

Considers the primary task of the United Nations to be to continue efforts to adhere to the principles of collective security and multilateralism, the pre-eminence of preventive diplomacy and the prevention of the emergence of bloc approaches;

Advocates the improvement of the conduct of United Nations peace-keeping operations through the development of unified criteria for the conduct of such operations, and their close association with efforts to settle conflicts by political means while retaining the lead role of the Security Council and strictly adhering to objectivity and the inadmissibility of double standards;

Notes the need for extreme caution in the use of coercive measures, with strict definition of the purposes of the application of sanctions and the conditions and mechanisms for lifting them, necessarily taking the humanitarian factor into account, and notes in particular the need to resolve the overdue issue of the lifting of the obsolete sanctions regime against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia;

Advocates the expansion of cooperation between the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Independent States in various fields in strict conformity with the principles of voluntariness and equality of rights;

Draws attention to the urgency of the problem of ensuring respect for economic, social and political human rights, including those of national minorities, and preventing all forms of discrimination against the Russian-speaking population living outside the Russian Federation;

Expresses the view that an important means of increasing the effectiveness of the United Nations is the expansion of all forms of the Organization's cooperation with the parliaments of States Members of the United Nations and with international parliamentary organizations.